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THE SCENT OF DEATH



ONTARIO

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS & FORESTS

HON. A. KELSO ROBERTS, O.C.
Minister

F. A. MacDOUGALL
Deputy Minister

THE SCENT OF DEATH

The young boy loved animals. Therefore, he was overcome with pity as he looked down at the fawn, rubbing its small head against his legs. He couldn't resist its soft bleating and those big, brown, trusting eyes, so he knelt and cradled it in his arms. Thus, the kind boy became the fawn's executioner. When the baby deer was cuddled in those sympathetic arms, it was immediately covered with the "scent of death"---the human scent which spells DANGER to keen animal noses.

Animals seldom, if ever, abandon their offspring without good reason. The mother of this seemingly deserted fawn was just out of sight, feeding, before returning to care for her young one. When she came back, her sensitive nostrils picked up a hostile odour. Her baby was tainted. Mother instinct was replaced with fear and a strong desire for self-preservation. She would no longer nurse this sudden liability but leave it by the trail to die.

On another occasion, a Lands and Forests conservation officer, who was patrolling a northern Ontario river, looked towards the shore and saw two hunters; nothing unusual here, except one was holding a moose calf while the other photographed it. The officer immediately beached his canoe and gave the young men a one-minute lesson in

conservation, but it was too late; the small moose died when its mother did not return.

Then, there was the case of a family who, while driving along a wooded country road, almost hit a bewildered fawn. It looked so frightened and forlorn they took pity on it, and, thinking it would make an interesting pet, put it in the car and headed for home. However, they found that no formula agreed with the young deer, and it died of starvation; some perish from dysentery.

If captured young animals are lucky enough to live until adulthood, they can become a general nuisance and even dangerous. There have been a number of cases of so-called "tame" deer striking out viciously with sharp front hooves if agitated. Kindness to young wildlife may unwittingly cause a quickened death; indeed, many young animals have had their death warrants signed by pitying campers or hikers.

Besides the harm done to young animals through human contact in the wilds, there is also the danger of contracting rabies from the animal. The animal may appear "friendly" and approach unhesitatingly, while in reality it is suffering from this disease, fatal to animals and to humans as well, if medical treatment is not begun immediately.

It is contrary to regulations to keep wild animals unless a special permit is obtained from the Department of Lands and Forests.

A wise policy is "leave and let live" as human contact could make an animal one of nature's untouchables.



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DEATH

OF A FOREST



FIRE

KILLS

EVERYTHING

PLEASE
BE CAREFUL
TO PREVENT
FOREST FIRE

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